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"To Crozet (Marion, p. 29) their language appeared harsh, and they seemed to draw their sound from the bottom of the throat. On the other hand, Robinson (Calder, Journ. p. 28) found it 'peculiarly soft; and except when excited by anger or surprise, was spoken in something of a singing tone, producing a strange but pleasing effect on the sense of the European.' Davies considered the language soft and liquid, and Breton (ch. vi. p. 355) describes it as musical and soft. According to Meredith the vowels are sounded peculiarly full and round.

Vowels.

a as in cat, rap.
ā as in potato (also written é by Milligan).
ē as in the.
ē as in thee, see, me.
ī when before a vowel, as in shine, riot.
ī as in sigh, fie (ei is pronounced as in Leipsic).
ȳ as in holy, glibly.
o as in flow, go.
o͞o as in moon, soon.

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u as the French use, usage, fumier, usurier, but never like the u in flute.
u as in musk, bump, lump.

Semi-Vowels.

y as in yonder, yellow.

Diphthongs.

aa as aw in lawn.
oi as in toil.
ou as in noun."

"b, c [? k], g, h (only at the end of words), k, l, m, n, p, q (qu) [? k], r, t [w], ch and gh (pronounced as in German hochachten). There appears to be no d, f, v, s, or z.

Milligan uses a d in the words gdulla acid, and mannaladdy cough, also in lowide scab, and in tendyagh (or tentya) red, and rhomdunna (or romtena) star; it is of course conceivable that the Tasmanians used occasionally the soft equivalent for t so common among them. But as they had no hisses or buzzes, it is not probable that they had a th, which Milligan places in the words elapthatea beauty, fine, ree-mutha fist, pothyack no, and riaputhaggana tame. The absence of the th is confirmed by Milligan's spelling of the words ree-mutta, hand, and poyenna pottayack, vanish, where the t takes the place of the th. Norman has th in several words. McGeary is the only writer who systematically uses a v, but he uses this letter where others use a u or w, thus:

McGeary,	mutton bird	yavla.
Braim	"	youla.
McGeary,	night	levira.
Braim,	"	leware.
McGeary,	black man	vaiba.
Roberts,	"	wibar.
Milligan,	"	weiba.
McGeary,	moon	vena.
Roberts,	"	too-weenyer.

As Milligan, who has been so careful in the compilation of his vocabulary, completely ignores the letter v, we are no doubt correct in stating the Tasmanians did not know the letter. The letter z is used by La Billardière in rizlia (hand), but this is evidently a misprint for rialis. Milligan has a c, which apparently reads like an s (and not like k), thus: oghnamilcé (ask). This is probably also a misprint.

In the Van Diemen's Land Almanac for 1834 it is stated that the letter r is sounded 'with a rough, deep emphasis, particularly when excited by anger or otherwise.' Braim says (II. p. 257) that to meet the correct pronunciation the soft h should be added where any words end in a. As an illustration of their inability to pronounce certain hard letters, Davies mentions they can-[181]not say doctor and sugar, but say instead togata (or tokata) and tugana. (1)"

"1. This is something like the South-Sea Islanders, most of whom say bokkis for box."

1: Roth--181 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
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"Words largely commence with a consonant; the consonants conjoined at the beginning of a word are:--

cr- (kr-), pr-, and also tr-, all very common; br-, gr-, ng-, pl-, and gn- very rare.

Conjoined consonants are otherwise met with, as br, gr, kr, ng, nt (very common); rare are cht, ghr, ght, gl, kn, lb, mp, ngh, ngl, ngt, nk, nr, pr, rk, rn, rt, and tr.

Words largely end with a vowel, and the soft aspirate, unless they terminate in -ack, -ak, -iack, -yak, etc. (Where most of the vocabularies make the words end in -a, -ah, Norman makes the same words end in -ar, -er.) (2)"

"2. All that relates to the vowels, etc., and their pronunciation, is based on Milligan; what follows, as far as 'Construction,' is largely based on Fr. Müller's chapter on the Tasmanian language."